

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A support assembly to secure a roof bar, having a longitudinal mounting portion via which articles are secured to the bar, to a vehicle roof mounting so that in use the bar extends generally transversely across the vehicle, said assembly including:

a base to which the bar is to be secured;

a user manipulated part mounted in the base, said user manipulated part including a threaded portion, a securing member connected to said threaded portion, an ~~open ended~~ eyelet opening in said securing member for engaging said vehicle roof mounting, and a threaded shaft to engage said threaded portion;

a movable cover mounted on the base to inhibit access to said user manipulated part and longitudinal mounting portion in a first position, the cover being releasable for movement relative to the base to expose said user manipulated part and inhibit access to said longitudinal mounting portion in a second position, and the cover being releasable for movement relative to the base to expose said user manipulated part and longitudinal mounting portion in a third position; and

a lock operatively associated with the base and cover to secure the cover to said base to inhibit access to said user manipulated part and longitudinal mounting portion, and operable to release the cover for the movement relative to said base; and

wherein said securing member is tensioned to inhibit repositioning of the bar relative to the vehicle.

2. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said cover is attached to said base.

3. (Original) The support assembly of claim 2, wherein said movement includes pivoting movement about an axis and movement along a predetermined path.
4. (Original) The support assembly of claim 3, wherein said axis is generally horizontal when said assembly is secure to said vehicle.
5. (Original) The support assembly of claim 4, wherein said path is located generally in a vertical plane when said assembly is secured to a vehicle.
6. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said movement is provided by projections on said cover slidably engaged in tracks in said base.
7. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1 wherein, said lock includes a lock cylinder mounted in said cover and operable to engage said base.
8. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said base has a cavity via which the user has access to said part, with said cover being movable relative to said base to close said cavity to inhibit said access.
9. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein angular movement of said shaft causes the assembly to be secured or released with respect to the vehicle, said shaft being slidably supported in said base for angular movement about a longitudinal axis of said shaft.
10. (Original) The support assembly of claim 9, wherein said longitudinal axis is generally vertically extending when said assembly is mounted on the vehicle.
11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said securing member is a strap assembly including a strap body to extend between the base and vehicle mounting.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The support assembly of claim 7, wherein said lock cylinder is key operable and includes a projection that is angularly movable between a first position engaged with said base to retain the cover in a position inhibiting access to said part, and a second position releasing the cover with respect to the base.

15. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1 further including a mounting adaptor that is to be secured to the vehicle mounting, and wherein said part threadably engages said adaptor and is tensioned to secure the assembly to the vehicle.

16. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1 wherein said securing member is accessible only when said cover is positioned to provide access thereto.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1 further comprising a roof bar, and wherein said mounting portion includes at least one longitudinal flange.

19. (Currently Amended) A support assembly to secure a roof bar to a vehicle, said assembly comprising:

a base capable of securing the roof bar to the vehicle roof; ~~and~~

a cover pivotably mounted on the base at a pivot point, wherein the pivot point is moveable along the base from a first position to a second position; and

a track located on a first and second side of the base, the cover capable of sliding along the track to move from the first position to the second position.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) The support assembly of claim 19 ~~20~~ further comprising a lock operatively associated with the base and cover to secure the cover to the base and operable to release the cover for sliding along the track.

22. (Currently Amended) A support assembly to secure a roof bar to a vehicle roof, having a longitudinal mounting portion via which articles are secured to the bar, said assembly comprising:

a base capable of securing the roof bar to the vehicle roof;

a cover mounted on the base at a pivot, wherein the ~~cover~~ pivot is moveable relative to the base from a first position to a second position while the cover remains ~~remaining~~ mounted to the base; and

wherein in the first position articles are prevented from being secured to the bar and wherein in the second position articles are capable of being secured to the bar.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The support assembly of claim 22 ~~23~~ wherein the pivot ~~cover~~ is slidable relative to the base from the first position to the second position.

25. (New) The support assembly of claim 24 further comprising a track located on a first and second side of the base, the pivot capable of sliding along the track to move from the first position to the second position.